1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	1	0	1	0.13	0.00
	GRAND TOTAL:	387	0	—	2,587.02	

Loss making bank branches in rural areas

†676. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified those bank branches in rural areas which are running into losses continuously;

(b) if so, the States where these branches are located and the State-wise numbers thereof;

(c) the details of the average annual losses incurred by each branch of the said banks in each State;

(d) whether Government have decided to close down these branches; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Increase in outstanding guarantee of States

677. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the alarming situation on the guarantee front in respect of 24 States where the outstanding guarantees increased from just Rs. 40,317 crore in 1992 to Rs. 1,33,062 crore in 2000 and further to Rs. 1,69,562 crore in 2001;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue directions/guidelines to State Governments to honour the guarantees given by them; and

(c) whether there are any monitoring mechanisms in this regard and, if so, whether timely warnings were given to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Outstanding guarantees increased from Rs. 42515 crore at the end of March, 1993 to Rs. 1,66,116 crores at the end of March, 2002 for 17 major States, according to the RBI.

(b) RBI has been sensitizing the State Governments to honour the guarantees given by them and to extend guarantees within sustainable and manageable limits.

(c) Government of India have issued instructions to streamline the borrowing programme of States in tune with the Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programme of States. Guarantees have also been brought within the ambit of Article 293(3) of the Constitution of India.

Foreign exchange reserves

678. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in our foreign exchange reserves thus far in the current fiscal year;

(b) the factors responsible for this increase;

(c) whether Government have fixed any target for optimum level of reserves; and

(d) if so, what is that level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) India's foreign exchange reserves increased by US$ 20.6 billion during the current fiscal year (up to February 7, 2003).

(b) The factors responsible for the increase in foreign exchange reserves are strong inflows under invisibles receipts, foreign direct